

BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY
of the
TEXAN
CONVENTIONS and CONGRESSES



1832--1845

FORD, John Salmon, soldier, statesman, and journalist, was born in Greenville District, South Carolina, May 26, 1815, and moved to Bedford County, Tennessee, in 1817. Having finished his education in medicine, and being greatly interested in Texas' troubles, he came here in June, 1836, and settled at San Augustine. Too late for actual fighting in the Revolution, Dr. Ford resumed his profession. Late in 1836, however, he joined Captain Jack Hays in Indian fighting, and in 1837-38 rose to the rank of first lieutenant. In 1844-45, he represented San Augustine in the House of the Ninth Congress. Later in the year 1845, Dr. Ford moved to Austin and established the *Texas Democrat*, which he edited until the next year when he rejoined Colonel Hays, this time in the Mexican War. Made adjutant under Colonel Hays, Ford soon was put in command of a company of scouts. In 1849, he helped lay out a road from San Antonio to El Paso and Santa Fe, after which he again commanded a Ranger company between the Nueces and the Rio Grande rivers. In 1852 he was elected to the Senate of the Fourth Legislature, from Travis, Hays, and Gillespie Counties. Merging the *Southwestern* with the *State Times*, he conducted his newspaper for six years, before

returning in 1858 to frontier fighting, this time against the Comanches, and a year later against the Mexican bandit, Cortina. In 1861, Dr. Ford was a delegate to the Secession Convention held at Austin, and was commissioned by that body to raise a regiment for service along the Rio Grande. Later a colonel of cavalry, he rendered valiant service to the Confederate cause, and fought the last battle of the Confederacy at Palmito, May 12, 1865. He settled in Brownsville after the war, and in 1868 edited the *Brownsville Sentinel*. Retaining his interest in things political, Dr. Ford attended the Baltimore National Convention in 1872, the State Constitutional Convention in 1875, and the Fifteenth and Sixteenth State Legislatures, 1876-79, as Senator for the Twentyninth District. For the next four years, under the administration of Governor O. M. Roberts, Dr. Ford served as superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Austin. He died at San Antonio, November 3, 1897. —See *Texas Magazine*, IV, 32, January, 1898; Biographical Notes, Texas State Archives; *Biographical Souvenir of the State of Texas*, 299; Thrall, *Pictorial History of Texas*, 539-40; *House Journal of the Ninth Congress*; *Members of the Legislature of the State of Texas, 1846-1939*.